United Nations S/2000/779

# Security Council

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## Letter dated 8 August 2000 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 4 August 2000 (S/2000/778) concerning your decision to appoint Rolf G. Knutsson as your Personal Representative for Southern Lebanon has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the decision contained in your letter.

(*Signed*) **Hasmy** Agam
President of the Security Council

00-59810 (E) 080800

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## Letter dated 7 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In the Arab world and in the world as a whole, and at both official and non-governmental levels, there have been increasing calls for the lifting of the inhuman sanctions that have been maintained against Iraq for more than 10 years and for a halt to all forms of aggression against the country, including the no-flight zones imposed by the United States and the United Kingdom in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The Council of Arab Economic Unity, whose membership includes Syria, Jordan, Yemen, Libya, Egypt, Iraq, the Sudan and Palestine, recently held its seventy-first session in Cairo. In its resolution 1123 of 7 June 2000 (see annex), adopted at that session, the Council calls for the lifting of the embargo imposed on Iraq, affirms its rejection of the no-flight zones imposed on parts of Iraq and of interference in the country's internal affairs, condemns military incursions into Iraq's territory, and urges the Arab States to expand their trade with Iraq.

This resolution gives clear expression to a truth that is perceived by the Arab States, namely that the consequences of the embargo do not affect Iraq alone but also have a direct impact on Arab economic integration. Iraq represents a basic element in joint Arab action for development and progress, and the maintenance of the embargo and the disruption of the development process for Iraq and for the entire Arab world are blatantly incompatible with all the relevant international conventions and covenants and with the goals of the United Nations. In its resolution, the Council also affirms Arab rejection of the bellicose conduct of the United States and the United Kingdom in enforcing the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq, which constitutes wanton aggression against an independent State, a dangerous precedent for the norms governing relations between States and a violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

This resolution is but one example of the many demands and appeals by means of which the peoples of the world have expressed the call of human conscience for an end to the use of the Security Council as an instrument for the perpetration of genocide against the people of Iraq. The Security Council must respond to the desire of the international community and to the logic of truth, justice and fairness, and it must end the comprehensive sanctions imposed on Iraq and halt all forms of aggression against the country if it is to be faithful to its role under the Charter of the United Nations.

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I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

## Annex to the letter dated 7 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

### Council of Arab Economic Unity resolution 1123 of 7 June 2000

[The Council of Arab Economic Unity,]

1. Reaffirms its previous resolutions and urges the international community to lift the embargo that has been maintained against the Republic of Iraq for more than nine years, given that this would have the positive effect of mitigating the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people as it sustains damage in material, human and moral terms because of the embargo and of enhancing the Arab economic integration in whose achievement the Republic of Iraq has an active role to play;

2. Demands the immediate implementation of paragraph 22 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and, with the country having met all of its obligations, the lifting of the total embargo imposed on Iraq;

3. Urges the countries of the world to adopt a resolute stance against all measures, endeavours and resolutions aimed at perpetuating the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq;

4. Reaffirms its call to the Arab States to take appropriate measures to expand their trade with Iraq so as to help mitigate the effects of the embargo;

5. Calls upon Arab and non-Arab States to give effect to Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations;

6. Affirms the maintenance of the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and rejects interference in its internal affairs;

7. Rejects the no-flight zones imposed on parts of Iraq as being in breach of the norms of international law and given their negative and dangerous repercussions for the economic and social conditions of the fraternal Iraqi people;

8. Calls upon Arab and non-Arab countries to resume their flights to Iraq and to facilitate the movement of goods and persons by land, sea and air;

9. Condemns the recurring Turkish military incursions into the Republic of Iraq, which constitute wanton aggression against Iraq, and affirms respect for Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity;

10. Requests the Secretary-General of the Council to monitor the implementation of this resolution by member States and to submit a report thereon to the Council at its next session.

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# Letter dated 6 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On 6 August 1990 sweeping sanctions were imposed on Iraq under Security Council resolution 661 (1990). These sanctions, *inter alia*, prohibited Iraq from exporting goods of any kind and froze its overseas assets, and Iraq was not permitted to obtain funds for the purchase of food and medicine, let alone for the payment of its contributions to the international organizations of which it is a member.

In view of Iraq's inability to pay its contributions in hard currency, given that it does not have the necessary financial resources owing to the comprehensive embargo being maintained against it, the contributions due from it to the budget of the United Nations came to exceed the amount stipulated in Article 19 of the Charter. The arrears in Iraq's contributions to the budgets of many other international organizations have also mounted, and these organizations include the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). In connection with its contributions to the United Nations budget, Iraq has since 1994 been submitting regular requests to the Committee on Contributions for exemption from the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter until such time as the sanctions are lifted or for the payment of its contributions to be made in local currency, as had been the case until 1992. A certain State member of the Committee on Contributions, however, has opposed these requests for political reasons. The most recent request Iraq submitted to the Committee on Contributions was that of 19 October 1998 (A/C.5/53/28), which was considered by the Committee at its special session held from 8 to 12 February 1999. In paragraph 64 of its report (A/53/11/Add.1), the Committee states as follows:

> "In addition, there was some discussion of whether the outstanding assessments of Iraq could be met from the sale of Iraqi oil, as was the case with the Compensation Commission and the oil-for-food programme. Some members felt that it would be worth exploring this possibility."

In accordance with this recommendation, on 9 June 1999 the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations requesting that consideration be given to the possibility of Iraq's arrears being paid from the revenues derived from Iraqi oil exported under the memorandum of understanding and the oil-for-food programme. In his letter dated

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28 June 1999, the Secretary-General replied that the matter was not within his purview but within that of the Security Council.

On 5 January 2000, we addressed a letter to the President of the Security Council (S/2000/7) in which we requested the Council to give urgent consideration to the matter and to approve the allocation of a sum of 24 million dollars from the Iraq account established pursuant to Security Council resolution 986 (1995) and the memorandum of understanding of 20 May 1996 and, specifically, from the 53 per cent and 13 per cent accounts, for payment of the arrears in Iraq's contributions to the United Nations budget and in its contributions to the OPEC budget. At its consultations held on 7 February 2000, the Council considered Iraq's request and a large number of its members expressed their support. One State, namely the United States, expressed reservations on the grounds that revenues under the Programme were intended only for humanitarian items, compensation payments and the other disbursements for which provision is made in resolution 986 (1995).

On 10 April 2000, we addressed another letter to the President of the Security Council (S/2000/302) in which we requested that Iraq's contributions be taken from the 2.2 per cent sub-account of the Iraq account, that designated for administrative and operational purposes, in which there was a surplus of more than 212 million dollars.

The President of the Security Council for May 2000 held bilateral consultations on this request, and he informed us that there had been no agreement among the members of the Council on the payment of Iraq's contributions from the funds accumulated in the 2.2 per cent account. We learned that it was the United States that had opposed this proposal.

In view of the paramount importance Iraq attaches to the payment of the arrears in its contributions to international organizations, and particularly the United Nations, we request the Security Council to consider once more Iraq's legitimate request that its financial contributions to international organizations should be paid from the net funds that have accumulated in the 2.2 per cent account, particularly since Iraq's payment of its arrears to the United Nations would help to alleviate the financial crisis of the Organization.

The persistence of the United States in rejecting this legitimate request made by Iraq in the past only reflects the extent of its arrogance and arbitrariness, which offend against all reason. According to the figures for the Iraq account given by the Treasurer on 21 July 2000, of the 29.7 billion dollars realized from the sale of Iraqi oil under the Programme since it first went into effect at the end of 1996, 8.9 billion went for compensation, 634 million for administrative and operational expenses (the 2.2 per cent account) and 215 million for the account of the defunct Special Commission (the 0.8 per cent account). A sum of several hundred million dollars is thus surplus and lies dormant in the account for administrative and operational expenses and the account for the defunct Special Commission. Why does the United States not allow Iraq to pay its contributions to the United Nations from these Iraqi funds? Why are 8.9 billion dollars paid to the Compensation Fund while the United Nations is being deprived of the arrears in Iraq's contributions, which amount to less than 13 million dollars?

I request the Security Council to consider Iraq's legitimate request at its earliest possible meeting.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2000/782

# Security Council

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## Letter dated 8 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I attach an official statement entitled "Rwanda's proposal for a disengagement plan" (see annex) as a move towards facilitating further implementation of the Lusaka Agreement and a full-fledged deployment of the United Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo according to the Lusaka Agreement and Security Council resolution 1291 (2000).

We hope that the Security Council is going to take up this offer and act upon the impasse into which President Kabila seems to have drawn the Council.

I would appreciate if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Joseph W. **Mutaboba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-60011 (E) 090800

## Annex to the letter dated 8 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

### Rwanda's proposal for a disengagement plan

1. The Government of Rwanda is concerned by the fact that there have been unnecessary delays in the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.

2. It is a year since the Agreement was signed, yet the work that has been done by the Joint Military Commission and the Political Committee has been consistently thwarted by the Kinshasa Government through numerous ceasefire violations.

3. Recently, escalating violations of the Ceasefire Agreement have been observed in the form of generalized offensives, particularly in the Equator province, and as we speak some evident attacks in the southern sector. The Rwandan Government believes it may be helpful to provide a clear signal that Rwanda is willing to contribute whatever it can to facilitate the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement.

4. Rwanda proposes to go ahead in the spirit of the disengagement plan and sub-plans, as per the Kampala Agreement for Rwandan Patriotic Army troops to disengage from certain positions on the front line in order to provide a clear and wide disengagement zone that cannot be easily breached by any force, and would be easy to secure by the United Nations Observer Mission, to ensure that there are no violations of the ceasefire and also to ensure that those who are monitoring the Agreement are doing so in a secure environment.

5. Rwanda proposes to have a zone that is not less than 200 kilometres wide in a line running from Dekese in the central zone to Moba on the eastern zone.

6. This will be done in phases, but it will also be on condition that the United Nations fully undertakes responsibility for the disengagement zone.

7. Rwanda hopes the United Nations will live up to its responsibility as stipulated by the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and its own resolutions, particularly Security Council resolution 1291 (2000), and that it will encourage other signatories to emulate Rwanda's proposal.

**Kigali**
**8 August 2000**